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USSR EXCEEDS PLAN FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION, BUT SOME AREAS LAG

/Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources./

In October 1949, the USSR achieved the level for daily output of electric power which was planned for 1950. Altogether, the 1950 production increased 87 percent over 1940 instead of the planned 70 percent increase. During this period, power output of hydroelectric stations was more than doubled and stations which were destroyed or damaged during the war increased their output 40 percent.(1) The capacity of the DneproGES, again in operation, exceeded the prewar level.(2) New techniques, utilization of high-pressure steam, and improved operating methods of the steam-electric stations have permitted a 9.2-percent decrease in the consumption of equivalent fuel and automatization of operating equipment made possible a 50-percent increase in labor productivity. In 1950, 46 percent of all boiler aggregates and 68 percent of the hydroelectric stations (according to capacity) were automatically operated.(1)

In recent years, considerable progress has been made in rural electrification of the Soviet republics:

The Estonian SSR has built nine hydroelectric and ten steam-electric power stations in 1950. Five more steam-electric stations will be put into operation by the end of the year. Fifty-five hydroelectric stations are in operation in the republic and 500 electric motors are utilized by the Estonian sovkhozes, kolkhozes, and MTS.(3)

In Lithuania, 29 communal electric power plants are to be built during the last 6 months of 1950 at a cost of 2 million rubles.(4)

Twenty-seven steam-electric power stations are to be put into operation in the Latvian sovkhozes, kolkhozes and MTS by the end of 1950. Ten of these were completed by 15 September and three hydroelectric stations are to be put into operation by 7 October.(5)

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The Belorussian SSR constructed 44 rural hydroelectric and steam-electric power plants in the first 6 months of 1950 and are to complete a total of 86 electric power plants by the end of the year.(6)

The Ukrainian SSR put 330 electric power plants into operation in 1950, thus supplying 757 kolkhozes, 157 sovkhozes, and many MTS with electricity.(7)

By the end of 1950, the Moldavian SSR will have 14 new electric power plants which will supply 40 more kolkhozes with electric power. In addition, 38 electric power plants will be installed in MTS.(8)

The Bashkir ASSR built seven hydroelectric stations and nine steam-electric power stations in the first 6 months of 1950, thus making a total of 213 steam-electric stations and 85 hydroelectric stations in the republic.(9)

Most of the rayons in the Armenian SSR are to be electrified and more than 200 kolkhozes will be supplied with electricity by the end of 1950. Ten state and kolkhoz electric power stations under construction are to be completed by the end of the year.(10)

In the Primorskiy Kray, more than 100 electric power plants were in operation by 8 October and several more will be put into operation shortly.(11)

The Yakutsk ASSR obtained ten wind-driven electric power plants which will be used to electrify kolkhozes of the northern regions.(8)

In the Kamenets-Podol'sk, Oblast eight steam electric and 30 hydroelectric power stations were built in 1950 and 17 more stations under construction are to be completed by the end of the year. Eighty-four kolkhozes and 15 MTS have been electrified, 185 motors installed, and 28 new threshing machines electrically equipped.(12)

In spite of general successes in rural electrification, some areas lagged behind plan. Rural electrification of the Kirgiz SSR progressed very slowly and the plan has not been completed for several years. In 1950, for example, only eight electric power stations were put into operation and four made ready for operation while the plan called for 25 new power stations. In areas where electric power is available, it is not efficiently utilized. Of 158 electrified kolkhozes, only 53 are using electric power for productional purposes and some kolkhozes even have the equipment but do not put it to use. The "Kirgizsel'elektro" is mainly responsible for these deficiencies, while the rayon and oblast organizations and individual kolkhozes frequently do not complete their share of the work. Altogether, tens of interkolkhoz hydroelectric stations supply 158 kolkhozes, 30 sovkhozes, and 46 MTS with electric power and 265 electric motors with a total capacity of 1,173 kilowatts are in operation in the Kirgiz SSR.(13)

The Tadzhikstan SSR, which has an enormous hydroelectric power potential, is also lagging behind its plan year after year. For example, in Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast, none of three planned electric power stations have been put into operation and in Kulyab Oblast no electric power station was in operation in 1949. The 1950 plan was not completed, construction was started on only 21 of the 37 planned kolkhoz GES, and seven instead of the planned 29 kolkhoz GES were put into operation. In addition, the quality of construction work did not meet the technical requirements. The "Tadzhiksel'elektro" was mainly responsible for these deficiencies, but the Ministries of the Cotton Industry and Agriculture and the organizations responsible for supplying construction materials also failed to meet their requirements in the rural electrification program.(14)

The Azerbaydzhan SSR has failed to complete its plan since 1948. Of the 36 hydroelectric power stations planned for 1950, only seven were put into operation and the plan for electrifying MTS has also not been completed.(15)

Although tens of hydroelectric power stations have been built in Archangel'sk Oblast in recent years, the demand for electric power is still several times greater than the supply.(16)

Rural electrification of Leningrad Oblast (17) is lagging behind the rest of the country. In Leningrad Oblast, an average of 0.5 electric motor is used by its electrified kolkhozes, an amount which is only one half the average for the USSR. Nearly a fourth of the kolkhozes, one half the sovkhozes, and nearly all the MTS in the oblast were electrified by 2 December 1950.(17)

In several areas supplied by hydroelectric stations, it has been found necessary to ration electric power consumption because of the low water level of the rivers during the winter months. On 4 November 1950 and 6 January 1951, restrictions on the use of electric power were announced because of the low water level in the basin of the Kondopoga GES. Lights or heating devices of over 60-watt capacity were not to be used, electric power to institutions and office buildings was to be decreased 50 percent, and electric power to industrial enterprises was to be charted and rationed. Enterprise, organization, and institution chiefs were instructed to take decisive measures to conserve electricity. (18, 19)

The Stalinabad City Electric System announced restrictions from 26 November 1950 to 1 April 1951 to assure a supply of electricity to industrial enterprises, transportation, communications, institutions, and public consumers. It was forbidden to do electric welding between 1700 and 2300 hours; to use any electric space heating devices; to use more than the authorized amount of electricity; and to make any alterations affecting the meter box or to permit any unauthorized person to do so. Any subscriber breaking the regulations was to be cut off from the city electric system and then be subject to new limitations provided for in the regulations for utilizing electric power.(20)

The "Energosbyt" of the Kazakhstan Electric Power System imposed a winter ration of electricity as of 1 December 1950.(21) In Vil'nyus, it was advised to use electricity only from 1700 to 2200 hours with a warning that too many appliances would overload the electric substations and thus cut out whole regions in the city. Only professional appliances are to be used and then only those with a capacity of less than 400-600 watts.(22)

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6. Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znamya, 25 Aug 50
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18. Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znamya, 4 Nov 50
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